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KICK OFF

CARLTON SOCCER CLUB MATCH DAY

Round 25

Sunday

12th

March

2000

v.

Brisbane

Strikers

$2.00

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web: www.carltonsoccer.com.au

Senior Team Officials
Senior Coach Stuart Munro
Assistant Coach Fab Incantalupo

Academy Team Officials
Co-ordinator / Coach Jeff Olver
Team Manager Ian Perri

Contribution:
Chris Beattie, Anita Bulan, Mundial Sports, Steve Yolland
On-Field Co-ordinator: Angelo Sticca
On-Field Official: Michael Perri
Liason Officer: John DiQuatro
Junior Official: Andy McLean
Production: Out There Productions
Production Official: Adam Cunningham
Ground Announcer: Ian Cohen
Club Raffle: Carol McLean
Team Support: Doug Castledine, Les Sinnett, Chris Rozis
Web Site: Chris Beattie
Photography: Allsport
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COME ON YOU BLUES!

When we last played the Strikers, it was a 1 v 2 on the table. 18 rounds later at both teams are fighting to make it into the Top 6. It's a tough competition, and teams with depth and team spirit are the ones that will make the finals. Stuart Munro has the boys fired up now, and we can expect an exciting run home to the finals.

The progress of Simon Colosimo has delayed when he was shown a red card in the Youth match against Bulleen two weeks ago. He will miss tonight's Youth Match, and then will be back on the park next week.

With a more settled squad, Munro can now have his players concentrate on a more consistent style of play.

Congratulations to Alex Moreira who played his 50th Game for Carlton on Tuesday night against Canberra. Alex has been an integral member of the team for the past two seasons, and all soccer fans appreciate his silky skills.

One of Carlton's Founding Directors, Robert Shannon, passed away suddenly last Monday. Robert was a great supporter of the Carlton Soccer Club, and he will be deeply missed by all at Carlton.

Please note the following fixture change.

RND 29 9 APRIL Sydney United v Carlton 4pm Sydney Sports Centre

Have a wonderful night and let's hope that we have a big win tonight

REMEMBER THIS DATE!

CARLTON END OF SEASON BALL
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MATCH PREVIEW

The Coach

The Coach

I am now pleased that we have a full list of players to choose from.

With the likelihood of missing some players though suspension over the coming weeks, depth can really mean a lot. We have a tough road to the finals, with no easy games.

The boys know what they have to do to achieve or goals, so it's now just a matter of getting the job done on the park.

Stuart Munro

Profile of today's opponents:

Brisbane Strikers

Home Ground:	Suncorp Stadium - 40,000 capacity.
Captain:	Glen Gwynne
Coach:	John Kosmina
Colours:	Yellow/Royal/Blue
History:	12th in 1997/98, finalist in 1995/96, Champions 1996/97
Biggest Win:	7-1 v.Adelaide City 1995/96
Biggest Loss:	0-7 v. Adelaide City 1995/96

At the start of the season coach John Kosmina lacked the funds to buy suitable replacements for the loss of Stephen Laybutt and Kasey Wehrman and had to raid the QSF State League to make up the numbers in his squad. The Strikers responded to the challenge and started the season on fire, leading the table for a while before falling back a little.

Kosmina has moulded a competitive team which has forged a reputation as a tough defensive unit which has recorded some impressive results.

This represents another tough match for the Blues and coach Stuart Munro will be on the lookout for the three points in the lead-up to the finals.

RESULTS, TABLES, TOP SCORERS

ROUND 24 V. CANBERRA COSMOS

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney Olympic	13	5	6	46	27	44
Wollongong Wolves	12	7	5	49	34	43
Perth Glory	12	7	4	44	30	43
Newcastle Breakers	12	7	5	35	28	43
Marconi Stallions	11	6	7	33	29	39
Carlton SC	**10**	**6**	**8**	**38**	**29**	**36**
South Melbourne	10	5	9	38	36	35
Brisbane Strikers	9	6	9	33	30	33
Parramatta Power	9	5	9	39	34	32
Football Kingz	9	5	8	38	36	32
Adelaide City Force	8	7	9	33	27	31
Northern Spirit	8	3	13	27	41	27
Melbourne Knights	7	6	11	27	43	27
Gippsland Falcons	6	7	11	16	29	25
Canberra Cosmos	5	6	13	29	46	21
Sydney United	3	4	17	14	40	13

NSL REVIEW ROUND 24

Adelaide City Force	4	(Mori 12', 80', Vidmar 40', Kemp 45')
Sydney United	0	
Northern Spirit	0	
Wollongong Wolves	3	(Reid 21' pen., Stanton 26', Horsley 57')
Auckland Kingz	2	(Perry 67', Rufer 79')
Sydney Olympic	0	
Brisbane Strikers	1	(Grierson 86')
Perth Glory	3	(Trajkovski 18' pen., Edwards 28')
Gippsland Falcons	1	(Vargas 63')
Parramatta Power	1	(Laybutt 22')
Marconi Stallions	1	(Awaritefe 82')
Newcastle Breakers	1	(Wilson 86')
Melbourne Knights	0	
South Melbourne	4	(Curcija 40', 88' pen., Anastasiadis 63', Clarkson 80')

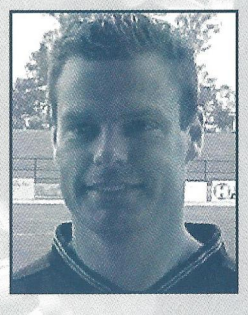
TOP SCORERS

16 - Curcija (South Melbourne)
14 - Cardozo (Sydney Olympic)
13 - Boutsianis (Perth Glory)
12 - Moreira (Carlton), Mori (Adelaide City Force),
11 - Foster (Brisbane Strikers),
10 - Buonavoglia (Newcastle Breakers)
9 - Masi (Wollongong), Sasho (Wollongong),**A. Marth (Carlton)**

OTHER MATCHES THIS ROUND

Friday, 10th March	Newcastle Breakers vs Melbourne Knights
	Northern Spirit vs Marconi Stallions
Sunday, 12th March	Perth Glory vs Parramatta Power
	Sydney United vs Camberra Cosmos
	Sydney Olympic vs Gippsland Falcons
	Wollongong Wolves vs Auckland Kingz
Wednesday, 5th April	South Melbourne vs Adelaide City Force

The Captain



The Captain

I feel that we are working a lot better as a unit now.

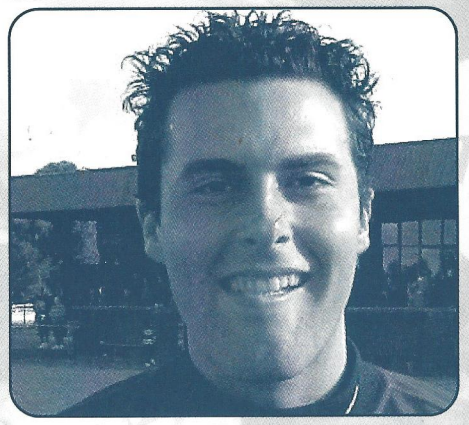
We are more settled, and players have regained some confidence that was missing a few weeks ago.

We are a proud group of players, and we expect success and victory everytime we walk onto the park.

Tonight is no different, and we will be walking off the park with the 3 points.

Andrew Marth

Player Profile: Adrian CAGALJ



Guernsey Number:	**20**
Nickname:	**Aidy, Spider**
Date of Birth:	**16.02.76**
Age:	**24**
Star Sign:	**Aquarius**
City and Country of Birth:	**Melbourne, Australia**
Ethnic Origin:	**Croation**
Citizenship:	**Australian**
Occupation:	**Professional Soccer Player**
Marital Status:	**Single**
Left or Right Footed:	**Right**
Eye Colour:	**Brown**
Hair Colour:	**Brown**
Height:	**190cm**
Weight:	**86kg**
Positions played:	**Goal Keeper**
Brand of soccer boot:	**Nike**
Number of seasons with Carlton:	**3**
Other clubs played for:	**North Geelong**
What age did you start playing soccer:	**8**
Career Highlight to date:	**Debut for Carlton**
Injuries/Ops/Reconstructions:	**Nothing Serious**
National Honours:	**None**
Biggest Achievement:	**Playing for Carlton**
Ambition:	**To be healthy, wealthy, and wise**
Favourite Actor:	**Steve Buscemi**
Favourite Actress:	**Natasha Henstridge**
Name your top 5 Movies:	**Nikita** **Shawshank Redemption** **Reservior Dogs** **Braveheart** **Pulp Fiction**
Favourite Comedian:	**Billy Connelly**
Favourite Band/Singer:	**Smashing Pumpkins**
List 5 CDs you can't live without:	**Siamese Dream** **Antichrist Superstar** **Paranoid & Sunburnt** **Spiderbait** **Mellon Collie**
Best Concert you went to:	**Smashing Pumpkins**
Favourite Pub:	**Bridie O'Reilly's**
Favourite Nightclub:	**Marquee Club**
Favourite Radio Station:	**JJJ - Merrick & Rosco**
Favourite Cartoon Character:	**Mr Burns**
Favourite Food:	**Seafood and Salad**
Favourite Restaurant/Cafe:	**Florintino's**
Favourite Sports Program:	**Sports Tonight**
Favourite News Program:	**Ten Late News**
Favourite TV Show:	**Seinfeld, 21 Jump St**
What do you eat before a game:	**Tea and Toast**
What do you eat after a game:	**Pasta**
Favourite Breakfast Cereal:	**None**
Favourite Drink (non alcoholic):	**Ribena**
Favourite Drink (alcoholic):	**Caffrey's Lager**
Favourite Overseas Player:	**Shaka Hislop**
Favourite Overseas Team:	**Gillingham**
What kind of car do you drive:	**97 Mitsubishi Lancer**
What is your dream car:	**Porsche Carrera 4**
Most Admired Striker:	**Henrik Larsson**
Most Admired Goal Keeper:	**Bruce Grobelaar**
Most Admired Defender:	**Slaven Bilic**
Most Admired Mid-fielder:	**JJ Okocha**
Hardest Opponent (team):	**Any**
Dream choice of which world league:	**French**
Most Admired Sportsperson:	**The Undertaker**
Major Influences:	**Parents**
Words of Advice:	**The only risks you regret are the ones you don't take.**

MATCH REVIEW

Round 14 - 1st March

Carlton SC	*0*
South Melbourne	*1*

South Melbourne finished with the points, but Carlton took more away from this high-tempo derby clash.

After dominating the first 25 minutes, Carlton conceded a goal - and ultimately the winner - to a poor piece of defending. But it was the manner in which the Blues players refused to lie down after that setback that will most encourage supporters.

The opening half was dominated by Carlton's twin terrors, Archie Thompson and Stuart Slater. At times, the lumbering South defence simply could not keep up with the pace and agility of both wingers.

Slater twice carved out excellent openings that should have seen the Blues take the lead. First, he skipped past two challenges before feeding Alex Moreira. The Brazilian in turn rolled the ball into the path of Thompson who thumped his drive against the foot of South 'keeper Chris Jones' post. Then a perfectly weighted pass from the Englishman left Moreira clear of an outclassed South backline, but the Blues striker thrashed his shot wide of goal.

South hit the front through Paul Trimboli. Nick Orlic managed to squeeze a pass betweenThompson and Mark Atkinson through to Andy Vlahos. His cut-back was met by Trimboli who blasted his shot past Anastasiadis in the Carlton goal.

Thompson took it upon himself to get his side back into the game and twice he forced good saves from the South Keeper. After the break, Andrew Marth fired an early warning shot just wide and Moreira, who's pace and directness constantly had the South defence backpedaling, engineered two of his own.

Munro threw on John Markovski for the final half-hour and the big centre-forward almost repaid the decision but couldn't keep his volley on target.

Markovski went close with a header after another thrilling run from Thompson before Angelo Motsiopoulos was introduced for the final 10 minutes.

The leading Academy striker was a blur of energy and skill in an excellent cameo performance. Linking well with Markovski and Slater, Motsiopoulos created two good openings that led to crosses flashing across the face of goal.

But in the end it wasn't enough and South - having been on the rack for much of the game - will be pleased to have escaped with the three points.

Blues line-up :
(4-4-2) Anastasiadis - Atkinson, McPherson, Horvat, Douglas (sub: Packer) -Thompson, Lapsansky, Marth (c), Slater - Conroy (sub: Markovski), Moreira (sub: Motsiopoulos)

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Hail Hail the Blues

Hail, Hail the Blues are here,
Carlton Forever, Carlton Forever,
Hail, Hail the Blues are here,
Carlton are the Champions!
Oh it's a grand old team to play for,
Oh it's a grand old team to see!
And if you knew the history,
It's enough to make your hearts go wooaah!
We don't care what the other teams say,
What the hell do we care!
For we only know that there's going
to be a show
And the mighty Carlton will be there!
And the mighty Carlton will be there!
Come on You Blues!
Come on You Blues!
Come on You Blues!

Advance Australia Fair

Australians all let us rejoice
For we are young and free,
We've golden soil and wealth for toil
Our home is girt by sea,
Our land abounds with nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare,
In history's page let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.

WARNING: It is an offence to enter the field of play as is the lighting of flares. Offenders will be ejected from the stadium.

MATCH REVIEW

Round 24 - 7th March

Carlton SC	*2*	*Moreira 39', 42'*
Canberra Cosmos	*0*	

Brazilian Alex Moreira marked his 50th game in a Blues jersey with a sweet 39th minute strike that set Carlton on the way to a comfortable 2-0 victory in Canberra. Before half-time, big Dave McPherson also found a way past Cosmos 'keeper Grant Barlow as the visitors carried on their improved form from last Wednesday's derby at South Melbourne. Coach Stuart Munro was able to name an unchanged line-up for the first time this year and almost saw his side take the lead as early as the third minute. Winger Archie Thompson, picking up the ball on half-way, dodged and weaved past three challenges before cutting inside Robbie Hooker and unleashing a left-foot strike that thundered against Barlow's near post. Canberra shook off that early scare and dominated the next 35 minutes. With the tricky Ivo de Jesus and Jason Polak outstanding in midfield, the Cosmos had the Blues defence at breaking point. De Jesus was on the end of the best chance after 35 minutes. From a corner, David Winnie and Danny Watkins both won important headers which eventually led to De Jesus carelessly nodding over Dean Anastasiadis' cross-bar. Then Sean Douglas motored down the left and lifted in a centre that Moreira failed to meet with sufficient power. But he didn't have to wait long to make up for that miss. On 39 minutes, Mike Conroy played a cute inside pass to Lubo Lapsansky. He rolled it into the path of Marth who squeezed a pass between two Cosmos defenders for Moreira. The Brazilian, without breaking stride, sent Barlow the wrong way and neatly passed the ball into an empty net.

Three minutes later it was 2-0. Thompson's mazy run ended with Conroy's rasping drive being tipped over by Barlow. From the corner, Lapsansky clipped the ball to McPherson on the edge of the area and the big Scot stunned the crowd with a marvelous header that rocketed into the top corner. After the break, the lively Thompson again left defenders in a spin before whipping in a centre that was just centimetres from a lunging Moreira. The Cosmos had their best chance of pulling a goal back on the hour when Watkins powered his way into the area. The ball eventually fell for De Jesus, but from only five metres he failed to beat a brave Anastasiadis at the near post. With Marth controlling the middle of the park, the Blues spent much of the second-half toying with a demoralised Cosmos side. Thompson almost made it three just before full-time after yet another mazy dribble. This time he jinked in-and-out of three tackles before finding himself one-on-one with Barlow. But he thudded his shot straight at the Cosmos 'keeper and missed the chance of a deserved goal after a thrilling five-star performance.

Blues line-up :
(4-4-2) Anastasiadis - Atkinson, McPherson, Horvat, Douglas (sub: Deans) - Thompson, Lapsansky, Marth (c) (sub: Markovski), Slater - Conroy, Moreira (sub: Motsiopoulos)

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Many thanks to all those who have joined as Carlton American Express Cardholders. Your support is greatly appreciated, and you will enjoy all the Amex and Special Carlton benefits.The Card is a new joint venture between Carlton Soccer Club and American Express, the world's largest and most respected card issuer. It is designed to offer Carlton Soccer Club members one of the most competitive credit card products in the market and there has already been a huge response with many supporters applying for the Card since our last home game.

The Carlton Soccer Credit Card provides members with a wide range of benefits, including a special introductory interest rate, annual Card membership fee waived in the first year (a $25 saving), plus the option to join the American Express Membership Rewards program*. And, if you apply for the Carlton Credit Card at the ground today, you will also receive a complimentary Carlton/Nike cap. So, please fill out an application form today and as a Carlton Soccer Club member start receiving benefits and privileges from American Express with the Carlton Soccer Credit Card, while also helping the Club to win this season's Championships. Enquiries can be directed to the Carlton Soccer Club on (03) 9639 7744.

* Subject to terms and conditions. Fees and charges apply. The interest rate is quoted as an annual percentage rate.
** Depending on when you make the purchase, when your statement is issued and whether or not you are carrying a balance on your account at the time. There is no interest free period for cash advances or balance transfers.

Get Your Part of Carlton History!

Ever dreamed what it was like when Vince Grella pulled on the number 13 Jersey for Carlton? How about watching the number 7 dance though the park on the back of midfielders Marusic and Bresciano? Well now you can get yourself into the authentic playing Jerseys. This is a rare and unique opportunity to purchase the original playing Jerseys from seasons 1997-1999 for just $100 each. The Jersey s come with a Certificate of Authentication from the Carlton Soccer Club, and will be signed by the player (if the player is currently with the Club)

PLAYERS	HOME JERSEY	AWAY JERSEY
1 Anastasiadis (46) Goal Keeper	SOLD	
2 Trajkovski/Anthopoulos (47)	SOLD	
3 Stergiopoulos (54)	SOLD	SOLD
4 Hunter (6) / Colosimo (34)	SOLD	SOLD
5 Douglas (53)	SOLD	SOLD
6 Anthopoulos / Marth (24)	SOLD	SOLD
7 Marusic (22) / Bresciano (32)	SOLD	SOLD
8 Atkinson (45)	SOLD	SOLD
9 Moreira (27)	SOLD	SOLD
10 Lapsansky (49)	SOLD	SOLD
11 Vlahos (44) / Thompson (10)	SOLD	SOLD
12 Colosimo / Tricarico (24)	SOLD	SOLD
13 Grella (24) / Van Steeden (2)	SOLD	SOLD
14 Markovski (25) / Josifovski (26)	SOLD	SOLD
15 D Cevinski (49)		
16 Martin (5)	SOLD	
17 Atkinson / Pir (6)	SOLD	SOLD
18 Della Rocca (31)		
19 Grbac (13)		
20 Cagalj (12) Goal Keeper		
22 Josifovski/Markovac (15)		
23 Bresciano	SOLD	SOLD
24 Tolios (3)		
25 A Cervinski (8) / Ouliaris (9)		

AWAY JERSEY

HOME JERSEY

* (-) games played for Carlton during the 1997-1999 seasons.
To order, tick the applicable box. Please note that Jerseys are sold on a first come basis.

Payment Details/Form

Please send me the above Jersey(s), @ $100 each. Please find payment for $_____.00

Attached is my cheque/Please charge my ☐ Amex ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ B.card ☐ Diners

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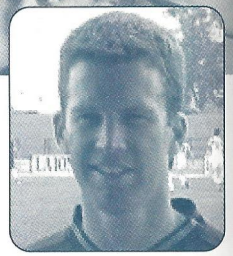
Phone: 9639 7744 Fax: 9639 7644 Email: info@carltonsoccer.com.au

ASK ROLY



To ask Roly a question, please visit www.carltonsoccer.com.au

Please note that due to space restrictions, some questions and responses have been edited.

Q. Now that South Melbourne made it to the inaugural club championships held in South America, and the rest of the league has seen it happen, do you think it will add some extra spice to the NSL Premiership ? Is it a talking point around the club ? And do you think in the long run, if it is successful, it will help the Australian national league, due to the monetary rewards, retain some players that may otherwise choose to accept contracts in overseas lower divisions ? Has it added anything to the Carlton/SM rivalry that we all enjoy ?
- Doghead

Roly : Watching South Melbourne play against some of the world's best has me all fired up to win the league and get there for Carlton next year ! There would be nothing better than to go out in Carlton colours on the world stage and play against the giants of football. It has been talked about around the club, from the very top down into the dressing room, and everyone wants to be there. So if all the clubs are like Carlton and have ambitions, then it will definitely add some spice to those finals matches. Winning your way into the World Club Championships could set a club up very nicely financially, but more importantly it would raise the awareness of soccer in this region. The world has now seen that the Australian league is no pushover, and it must raise the profile of the game here in Australia. So it will have numerous benefits for the game and the clubs involved. As for our rivalry with South Melbourne - it was nice to send them on their way to Brazil with a defeat on their home turf. And to watch them do reasonably well over there was the icing on the cake - we know we could do even better when we make it next season !

Q. Roly,
Now that you have plenty of time to answer the mail, a question. As one of the club's 'originals' how does this year 'feel' compared to the first year ? The squad is probably deeper but 98 will always be 'special'. What's your predictions for 2000 ? Good wishes to David Grbac and congratulations to Colin and Steve for recent good games.
- Bluie Stewie

Roly : '98 was a very special year. It just has the feeling around it that I don't think can be matched again. It can definitely be matched in terms of on the park performances, but we'll never be able to capture that same feeling of being "pioneers" and creating history. I think we have a good enough squad to win the league this year (providing we can keep most of it injury free !). So 2000 could be another "glory" year for the Blues ! And it just shows that we have great depth with the recent performances of Colin and Steve. But just a small note to Colin - Don't play too well or I'll never get my spot back!!

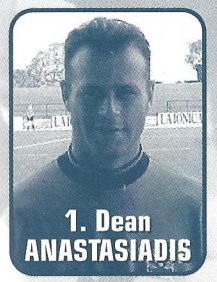
BANNER MAD!!

A big thank you for those who participated in the Banner Mad Competition.

Congratulations to this Carlton fan for winning last week's Banner Mad Competition. As you can see, they went to a lot of work making this winning entry.

Be sure to hold up your banners this week, and YOU may be the next BANNER MAD WINNER, and score yourself the new Carlton Strip.

CARLTON TEAM PROFILE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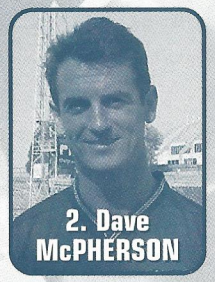
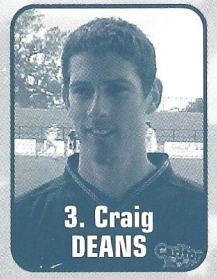
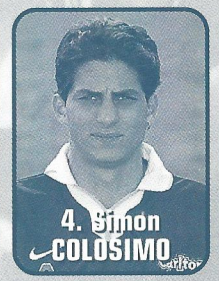
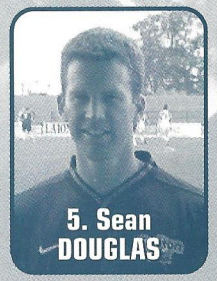
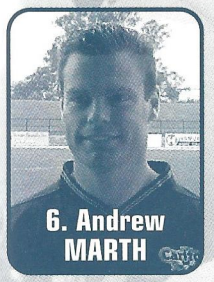
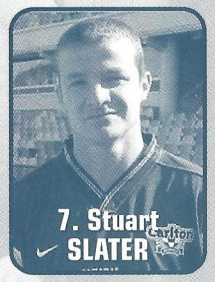

2. Dave McPHERSON


3. Craig DEANS


4. Simon COLOSIMO


5. Sean DOUGLAS


6. Andrew MARTH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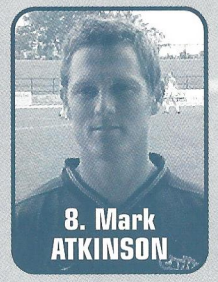
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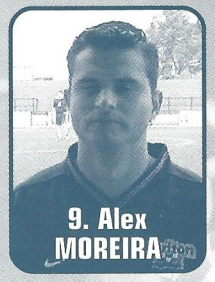
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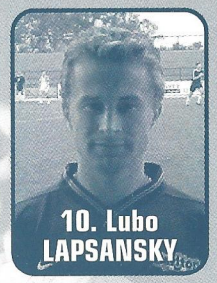
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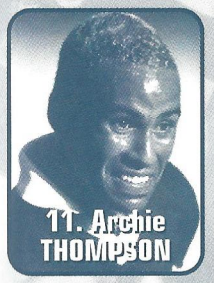
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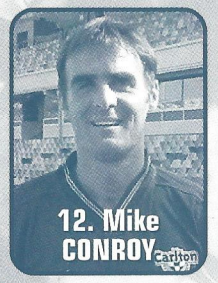
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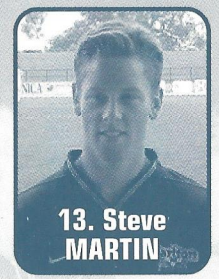
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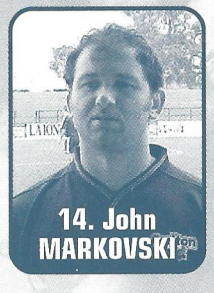
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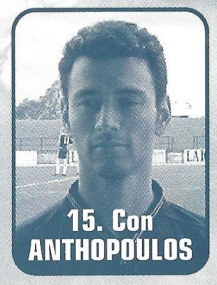
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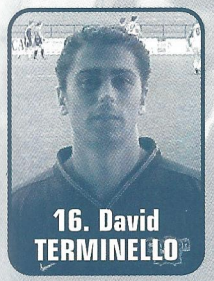
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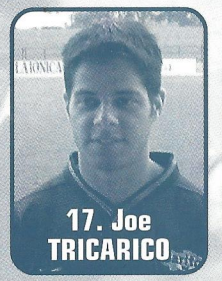
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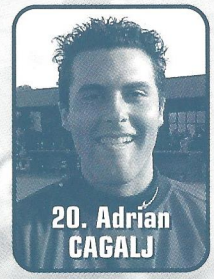
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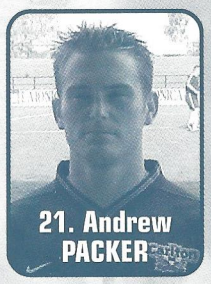
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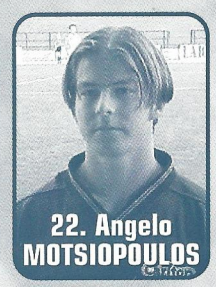
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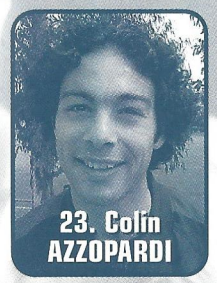
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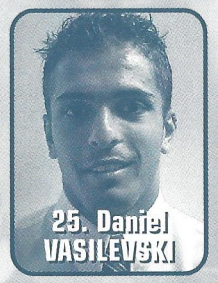
24. Joshua KENNEDY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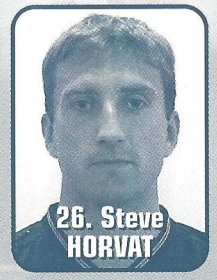
26. Steve HORVAT

MATCH OF THE DAY

Carlton Blues

Coach: Stuart Munro
Captain: Andrew Marth

			y/c	r/c	goals	substitute off:	replaced by:
1	Dean ANASTASIADIS	GK					
2	Dave McPHERSON	D					
3	Craig DEANS	D					
4	Simon COLOSIMO	D					
5	Sean DOUGLAS	D					
6	Andrew MARTH	MF					
7	Stuart SLATER	MF					
8	Mark ATKINSON	MF					
9	Alex MOREIRA	F					
10	Lubo LAPSANSKY	MF					
11	Archie THOMPSON	F					
12	Mike CONROY	F					
13	Steve MARTIN	MF					
14	John MARKOVSKI	MF					
15	Con ANTHOPOULOS	D					
16	David TERMINELLO	MF					
17	Joe TRICARICO	F					
20	Adrian CAGALJ	GK					
21	Andrew PACKER	MF					
22	Angelo MOTSIOPOULOS	F					
23	Colin AZZOPARDI	D					
24	Joshua KENNEDY	F					
25	Daniel VASILEVSKI	D					
26	Steve HORVAT	D					
30	Steve TILOVSKI	GK					

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PLAYING SQUADS

Brisbane Strikers

Coach: John Kosmina
Captain: Glen Gwynne

			y/c	r/c	goals	substitute off:	replaced by:
1	Clint BOLTON	GK					
2	Glenn GWYNNE	D					
3	Shane STEFANUTTO	D					
4	Andrew DAVIDSON	D					
5	Matthew BELL	D					
6	Brad DITTON	MF					
8	David PILIC	MF					
9	Paul FOSTER	S					
10	Wayne SRHOJ	MF					
11	Greg DI LOSA	S					
12	Peter DWYER	S					
13	Stuart McCLAREN	U					
14	Jade NORTH	Mf					
15	Leo LANGONE	MF					
16	Chay HEWS	MF					
17	Jeromy HARRIS	MF					
18	Nick MEREDITH	MF					
19	Wade MALDWIN	MF					
20	Daniel DUKE	GK					

KEY

D: Defender F: Forward MF: Mid-fielder GK: Goal Keeper S: Striker SW: Sweeper LW: Left Wing U: Utility

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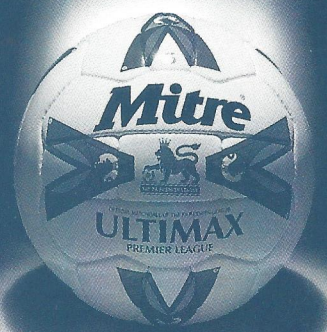

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THE SEASON TO DATE

With the season closer rapidly approaching, KICK OFF takes a look at the Carlton games of Season 99/00, what is left to play, and the club's chances of progressing into their second NSL Grand Final in three years.

Many diehard supporters will no doubt recall back to Round 1 of this season, when the Blues took on the newly formed Football Kingz. It was the ultimate start to a season, a 3-0 win, with Brazilian Moreira bagging two goals on his own. This could only be an indication of the grand season that was ahead for the team.

Two games later, and Carlton emulated their incredible performance, scoring four against Marconi's nil. However, the first major setback of the season was to come two rounds later, against Adelaide Force, when young Joey Tricarico (then the poll-leader for the Supporters' Player of the Year Award) was stretched off with a horrific hamstring injury. Although it was unknown at the time, the damage was to keep him sidelined for almost twenty-three weeks.

Another amazing "hatrick" effort by Moriera saw the tables turn, after two consecutive defeats. A five-one win over Canberra had set the wheels back in motion for the Olympic Park lads. This was followed up nicely, with a win over Sydney United the following week, who were having an extraordinarily lowly season.

Mid December saw a local derby with South Melbourne. It was the first time since April 12, 1998 that South had been beaten at home, Carlton streaking away with a 2-1 victory.

Carlton Coach Stuart Munro, made four major changes to the team that was so impressive to South the previous round. Crowd favourite John Markovski, and Craig Deans were dropped from the lineup, and were replaced by import Stuart Slater, and seventeen-year-old national, Josh Kennedy. The team lost one-nil to Sydney Olympic.

Later rounds, twenty-two in particular, saw much anger vented at refereeing decisions. A 3-nil loss was suffered at the hands of cross-town rivals, Melbourne Knights. Two more losses followed, against Adelaide Force, and South Melbourne, at Bob Jane.

Yet, although the loss to South was a loss, Coach Munro was delighted at the motivation his team displayed. A lack of presence on the field at recent times left Munro and the fans disillusioned. This was the turn-around that was needed.

At the time of going to print, the team was yet to play Canberra. However, there were ten rounds left for the regular season. The top four had secured their places. Carlton must win the majority of their games if they are to score that elusive spot in the top six. Interestingly, two matches at home against South Melbourne should make for great viewing. South, Brisbane, Kingz, Adelaide and Parramatta will all fight each other until May to ensure a spot in the finals.

So, if Carlton manages that final placing, what are their chances of making it through to the Grand Final? Supporters would have to say that it can be achieved. Probably more importantly however, are the Blues themselves. Without a doubt, the team are confident they can go all the way. Seeing as it is them who are playing for that NSL Premiership, it is their opinion that matters most.

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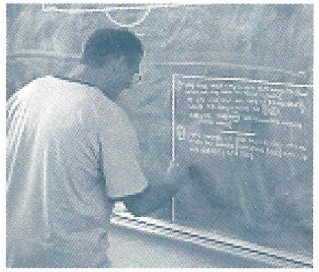
Blues Caption Contest

A new competition has been launched for Carlton fans. Thanks to Playcorp, up for grabs is a Playcorp "Free-Kick Training Kit" - a terrific prize for any budding young soccer star ! All we're after is that you to send in your most imaginative and witty caption for the picture of the week. Please limit your entry to 15 words or less.



E-Mail your ideas through to us at info@carltonsoccer.com.au or post them to Carlton Soccer Club at P.O. Box 157, North Carlton 3054. The winner will be announced in next week's "Kick Off" match programme for the game against Sydney Olympic. So get cracking and be sure to grab your copy of "Kick Off" at next Friday's game to see if you've won!

The winning caption for the last Blues Caption Photo was from K. Wilson. Their caption was;
"I must not swear at the referees."

Your task is to come up with - in 15 words or less - What is Stuart Munro thinking in this media conference?

STEVE HORVAT

When Carlton first announced the signing of Steve Horvat many saw it as "overkill". With so many proven National League defenders already available to him, why would Stuart Munro sign another - especially one who hasn't played a competitive game for two years ? Overrun at the Melbourne Knights, then pushed into midfield for the controversial defeat by Adelaide City, it appeared that Munro was struggling to find a place for his latest recruit.

But Horvat's performance against South Melbourne erased doubts that Munro had made a mistake in chasing his signature so keenly over Christmas. The former Hajduk Split sweeper was back to his best. With two League games under his belt, Horvat was visibly two yards quicker over the ground and his fitness - in trying conditions - stood up for the full 90 minutes.

Even when South Melbourne sent on Kiwi Vaughan Coveny - one of the fastest players in the League - Horvat was able to restrict him to little more than nuisance value. This after dominating his duel with U23 international Michael Curcija for almost 80 minutes in the energy-sapping heat. Carlton's adjustment to a back three late in the game went without a hitch, with Horvat's rediscovered pace an asset alongside the consistently outstanding Dave McPherson.

It is obvious Carlton have signed a genuine top-flight player. In Horvat - who can count Kevin Keegan and Harry Redknapp among his fans - and McPherson, Carlton supporters have the opportunity of seeing two recognised first-class players - both of whom could still be plying their trade in the Premier Leagues of England and Scotland.

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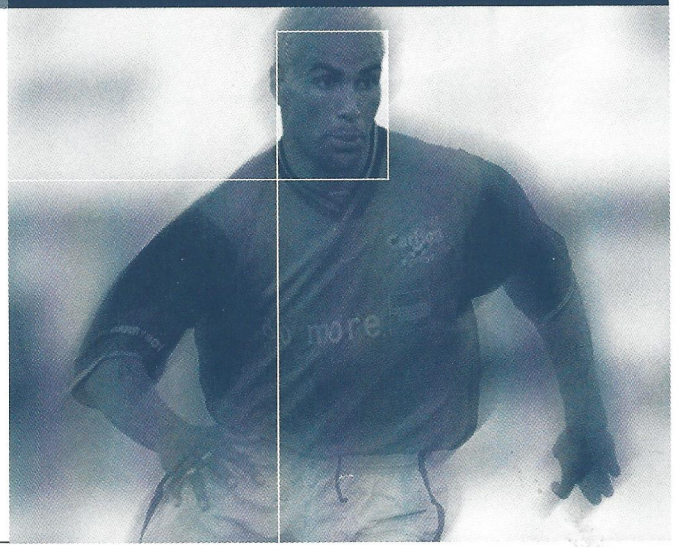

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PLAYER OF THE YEAR

As voted by you - the fans!

HOW TO VOTE: The Kick Off Player of the year is voted by you, the fans. Simply email your 3-2-1 votes to info@carltonsoccer.com.au by midday on the Monday after the match. Votes are tallied and a lucky voter is chosen randomly for a great prize. You don't even have to be at the game to vote, as away games count too. The player of the year will win this terrific trophy, as donated by Trophy Town, Ph (03) 9720 6399.

Votes for Round 23
3 - D. Vasilevski
2 - S. Slater
1 - D. McPherson

Votes for Round 14
3 - A. Thompson
2 - S. Horvat
1 - L. Lapsansky

Votes for Round 24
3 - A. Marth
2 - A. Thompson
1 - D. McPherson

Leading Vote Getters after Round 22
21 - D. McPherson, **20** - A. Thompson, **18** - L. Lapsansky, **13** -S. Slater, **12** - A. Marth, **11** - M. Atkinson, **8** - A. Moreira, D. Terminello, **7** - J. Tricarico, **5** - D. Anastasiadis, S. Douglas, A. Packer, **4** - C. Deans

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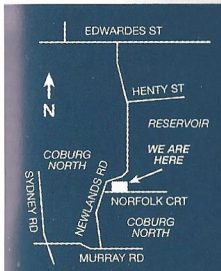

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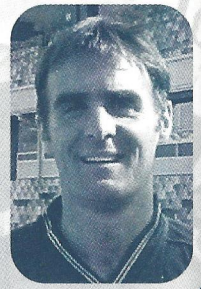
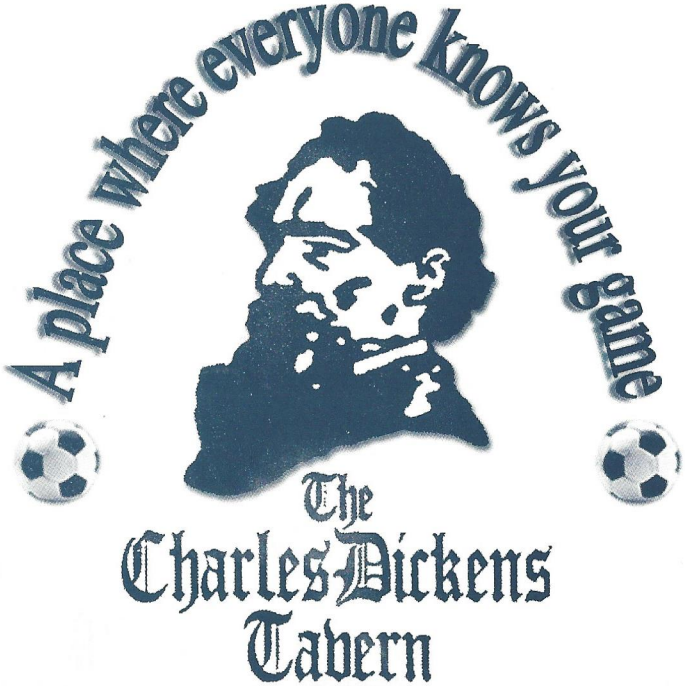
Questions with Mike

Q. Mike Conroy has always been my favourite player since he left Burnley. I knew that he went to Preston North End but I never knew that he went to Australia. I hope that he is doing well for himself over there. There are two questions I would like to ask him: Where, between Burnley and Preston, did you most enjoy playing ? And why? What has been the greatest moment in your footballing career so far ?
Love Karen Fazackerley

Mike : Karen,
In answer to your first question as to where I preferred playing - either Burnley or Preston NE - I would definitely say Burnley. Obviously being the first Burnley player to score 20+ League goals in 27 years was special, but to cap it all off with the League Championship was just fantastic. There will always be a special bond between the players from that team as we were so close. We not only made a decent team on the park, but also off the park we weren't bad! A good set of decent players, honest lads and good pros. It was a pleasure playing with them and an honour to be part of a successful Burnley FC. My greatest moment, again, is winning the League. To win a prize like that and representing a club like Burnley is without doubt the highlight of my career. Burnley is my type of club and place where people support the club with a passion. I always said to my Dad it was like playing for Celtic or Rangers, only on a smaller scale, because the fans love the club just like they do back home in Glasgow, and I can relate to that. I would like someday to return to Turf Moor in some capacity, even if it was working with the Academy kids.
Once a Claret, always a Claret !
Thanks, Karen.





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CARLTON ACADEMY

CARLTON ACADEMY PLAYERS FOR SEASON 1999/2000

1	Steve Tilovski	13	Steve Esposito
2	Vince Lia	14	Isayin Erdogan
4	George Papadopolous	16	David Puccio
5	Nick Tolios	17	Lester McEvoy
6	Eddy Awad	18	Massimo Murdocca
8	Daniel Debevc	19	Daniel Iuele
9	Marco Santilli	20	Frank Lagana
10	Marco Iacobaccio	22	Nick Kastanas
12	Dusko Delic	23	Matthew Nikolic

Coach: Jeff Olver
Asst Coach: Michael Pitchner
Team Manager: Ian Perri

Leading Goal Scorers

14	A. Pelikan (Melbourne Knights)
10	A. Curcija (Bulleen Inter)
9	A. Mashoian (South Melbourne)
9	A. Motsiopoulos (Carlton)
9	D. Martin (Albury Wodonga)

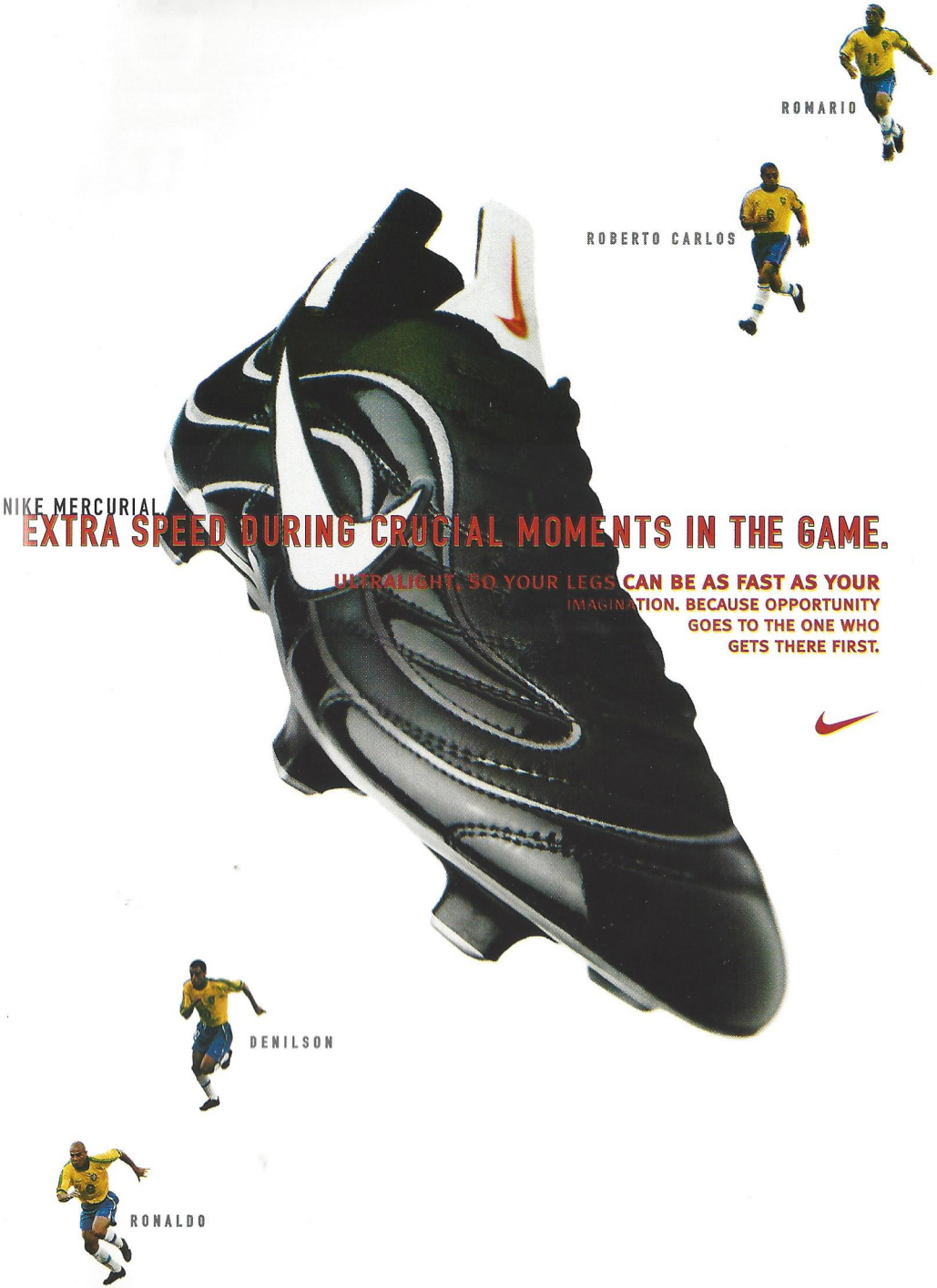
CARLTON'S FIXTURE

Rnd 16	Sun 12th Mar	Albury Wodonga Olympic Park, 4.30pm
Rnd 17	Sat 18th Mar	Gippsland Falcons Falcons Stadium, 4.00pm
Rnd 18	Fri 24th Mar	Melbourne Knights Olympic Park, 5.00pm
Rnd 19	W/E 2nd April	Bye
Rnd 20	Sun 9th April	South Melbourne Bob Jane Stadium, 3.30pm
Rnd 21	Mon 1st May	South Dandenong Anderson Park, 7.30pm

LEAGUE LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlton	**11**	**3**	**0**	**53**	**8**	**36**
V.I.S.	10	1	3	40	12	31
Bulleen Inter	8	2	5	38	28	26
Melbourne Knights	7	2	5	38	27	23
South Melbourne	7	0	5	31	13	21
Gippsland Falcons	6	3	4	26	25	21
South Dandenong	5	3	5	19	24	18
Fawkner Blues	4	3	6	16	27	15
Melb. Knights Academy	3	0	9	10	24	9
Albury Wodonga	2	2	10	18	49	8
Preston Lions	1	1	12	13	64	4

SEASON 99-2000 FIXTURE

Round 1	**Auckland Kingz 0 Carlton 3**	**Moreira 26', 31', OG 49'**	
Round 2	**Carlton 1 Gippsland Falcons 1**	**Marth 73' Pen.**	
Round 3	**Marconi 0 Carlton SC 4**	**A Thompson 40', J Tricarico 71', D McPherson 81', A Marth 86' Pen.**	
Round 4	**Carlton 2 Melbourne Knights 1**	**Marth 50', Lapsansky 70'**	
Round 5	**Adelaide Force 0 Carlton 0**		
Round 6	**Carlton 2 Canberra Cosmos 0**	**Moreira 11', Thompson 85'**	
Round 7	**Brisbane Strikers 1 Carlton 1**	**Thompson 55'**	
Round 8	**Carlton 1 Parramatta Power 3**	**Moreira**	
Round 9	**Perth Glory 4 Carlton 2**	**Markovski 32', Moreira 55'**	
Round 10	**Carlton 5 Canberra Cosmos 1**	**Marth 22', Moriera 47', 89', 93', Thompson 83'**	
Round 11	**Carlton 3 Sydney United 1**	**Moreira 9', Markovski 36', 43'**	
Round 12	**South Melbourne 1 Carlton 2**	**Marth pen. 83', 94'+**	
Round 13	**Carlton 0 Newcastle Breakers 0**		
Round 15	**Carlton 1 Auckland Kings F.C. 1**	**Marth 89'**	
Round 16	**Wollongong Wolves 3 Carlton 2**	**Thompson 17', McPherson 86'**	
Round 17	**Carlton 1 Northern Spirit 0**	**Marth 90'**	
Round 18	**Northern Spirit 3 Carlton 2**	**Thompson 40', Moreira 62'**	
Round 19	**Carlton 0 Sydney Olympic 1**		
Round 20	**Gippsland Falcons 1 Carlton 2**	**McPherson 31', Moreira 41'**	
Round 21	**Carlton 1 Marconi Stallions 1**	**Marth 45' pen.**	
Round 22	**Melbourne Knights 3 Carlton 0**		
Round 23	**Carlton 1 Adelaide City Force 2**	**Atkinson 41'**	
Round 14	**South Melbourne 1 Carlton 0**		
Round 24	**Canberra Cosmos 0 Carlton 2**	**Moreira 39', McPherson 42'**	
Round 25	Sunday, 12th March	Brisbane Strikers	Olympic Park - 7:00pm
Round 26	Friday, 17th March	Parramatta Power	Parramatta Stadium - 7:30pm
Round 27	Friday, 24th March	Perth Glory	Olympic Park - 7:30pm
Round 28	Friday, 31st March	Canberra Cosmos	Bruce Stadium - 7:30pm
Round 29	Sunday, 9th April	Sydney United	Sydney United Sports Centre - 4:00pm
Round 30	Friday, 14th April	South Melbourne	Olympic Park - 7:30pm
Round 31	Saturday, 22nd April	Newcastle Breakers	Breakers Stadium - 7:30pm
Round 32	Tuesday, 25th April	South Melbourne	Olympic Park - 7:30pm
Round 33	Sunday, 30th April	Sydney Olympic	Belmore Sports Ground - 6:30pm
Round 34	Sunday, 7th May	Wollongong Wolves	Olympic Park - 5:00pm

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